



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Crab Orchard

National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Information Sheet



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We have designed this **Planning Information Sheet** to give you some background on:

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Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is starting work on a long-term management plan for the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. This plan, known as a Comprehensive Conservation Plan, will serve as a guide for managing the Refuge for the next 15 years. We are preparing this plan to comply with the Congressional mandate in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. Our intent is that the Comprehensive Conservation Plan will:

- Provide a clear statement of the desired future condition

of the Refuge.

- Ensure that management of the Refuge is consistent with the purposes of the Refuge and consistent with the policies of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Provide Refuge visitors, neighbors, and partners with a clear understanding of the reasons for management actions.
- Provide for long-term continuity in Refuge management.
- Provide a basis for Fish and Wildlife Service staffing and for operation, maintenance, and capital improvement budget requests.

Getting Involved . . .

You can help us by sharing your thoughts and concerns related to Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Your concerns will help up focus our planning efforts and insure that we consider the topics that you care about. During the planning process, we will provide other opportunities for you to get involved and play a significant role in developing the plan.

For now, we would like to hear your thoughts and concerns.

Please take a few moments to review this sheet, then write your thoughts on a comment sheet and return it to us. Active participation by you and other interested individuals and groups is critical to the success of the planning process.

In addition to the comment sheet, you may submit your comments to us by:

Mail:

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Attn: CCP Comment, 8588 Route 148, Marion, IL 62959

Telephone:

618-997-3344

E-mail:

conwr-ccp@fws.gov

Visiting our Web Page:

<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/planning/cotop.htm>



U.S. Department of the Interior

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. From its establishment in 1849, the Department has managed many varied programs including Indian Affairs, administering land grants, improving historic western emigrant routes, marking boundaries, and conducting research on geological resources.

The Department's mission is (1) to encourage and provide for the appropriate management, preservation, and operation of the Nation's public lands and natural resources for use and enjoyment both now and in the future; (2) to carry out related scientific research and investigations in support of these objectives; (3) to develop and use resources in an environmentally sound manner, and provide an equitable return

on these resources to the American taxpayer; and (4) to carry out trust responsibilities of the U.S. Government with respect to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Department collects revenues from the leasing of natural gas and oil resources, both offshore and onshore; from coal, timber, and grazing on Federal lands, and from numerous other sources, such as recreation fees.

The Department of the Interior is comprised of a number of bureaus and offices including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Minerals Management Service, the National Park Service, the Office of Surface Mining, the Office of Insular Affairs, and the Office of the Secretary.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is: *working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 520 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 Fishery Resource Offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The Service enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

National Wildlife Refuge System

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is: *to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.* This statement emphasizes the significance of working with others to protect our resources, including plants, and recognizes the importance of providing benefits to the American people who establish the authorities and appropriate the funds for Service activities.

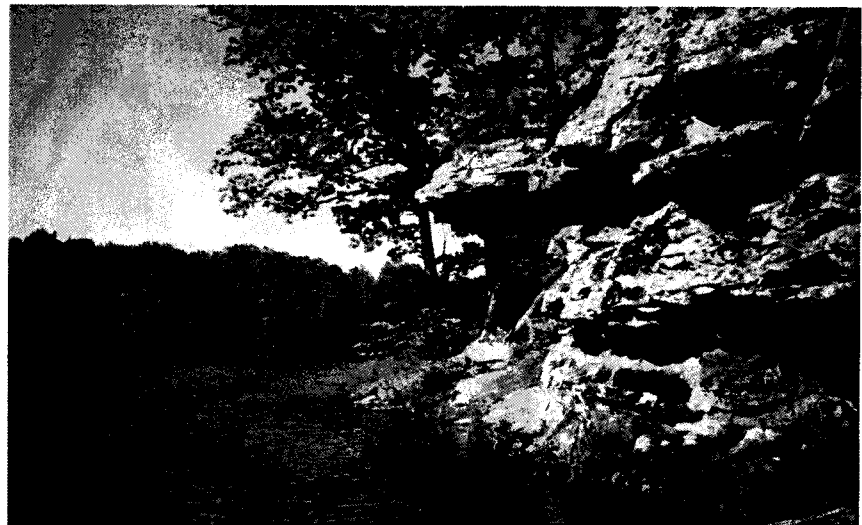
Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge was established on August 5, 1947, by Public Law 80-361. This Act of Congress transferred 22,575 acres from the Department of War (Illinois

Ordinance Plant) and 21,425 acres from the Soil Conservation Service (Crab Orchard Creek Project) to the Secretary of the Interior. This legislation mandated these lands be administered by the Secretary through the Fish and Wildlife Service "for the conservation of wildlife, and for the development of the agricultural, recreational, industrial, and related purposes specified in this Act."

Our current Vision Statement is: *Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is recognized as an outstanding example of enlightened resource management and use. Refuge resources are managed so that the agricultural, industrial, recreational and wildlife conservation purposes of the Refuge are accomplished in concert with each other and in full compliance with a long-term natural resource stewardship responsibility.*

The Vision Statement will be reviewed and may be revised during the process of developing the Comprehensive Conservation Plan.



Things You Might Consider

Here are some questions and topics that you might consider as you formulate your comments. We are providing these questions to jog your thoughts. Do not feel that your comments need to be limited to any of these questions or topics. Just tell us what is on your mind. We would like you to express your opinion – positive or negative – on any issue important to you.

Some questions that you might consider are:

- What do you value most about Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?
- What do you consider to be the most important problems facing Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?
- What changes do you see coming that will help or challenge Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?
- How do you see the Refuge fitting into the community?
- What is the most important thing the Refuge can do in the next 15 years?
- As the refuge manager, what would you do to improve Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?
- What do you think about the Refuge's *Vision Statement*?

Some topics that you might consider are:

Wildlife Conservation

threatened and endangered species
wildland fire suppression
prescribed burning
timber harvesting
firewood cutting
reforestation
prairie/grassland management
wetland/moist-soil management
scientific studies
research natural areas
exotic plant and animal species
fragmentation of habitats
migratory bird conservation
game wildlife management
nongame wildlife management
fishery management

Agriculture

farming
livestock grazing
haying

Industry

industrial operations
facility maintenance

Recreation and Public Use

fishing
fishing tournaments
hunting
trapping
wildlife viewing/photography
marinas
boat ramps
auto tour routes
hiking trails
environmental education
interpretive programs
camping

concession/campgrounds
youth camps
church camps
picnicking
sail boating
houseboating
canoeing/kayaking
waterskiing
jet-skiing
swimming
bicycling
running/jogging
horseback riding
mushroom/berry/nut picking
law enforcement
recreation use fee program
visiting cemeteries

Wilderness

wilderness preservation
compatible recreational uses

Miscellaneous

contaminants investigation and remediation
aesthetics
archaeological resources
shoreline and creek bank stabilization
land acquisition
partnerships

*Please tell us what
you think about
Crab Orchard
National Wildlife
Refuge.*

*Thank you for your
help!*
